

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1918.

Three Comedies to Lighten War Burden of Capital

Let loom, if they will, the lowering war-tax clouds which promise to add a blithe 20 per cent to the cost of our play passports in the future. Let 'em loom—who cares? Comedy of this, that and the other variety stalks abroad in a war-tired Capital this week and for a fortnight, care shall be forgot.

Otis Skinner
in New Comedy.

Heading the pilgrimage comes Otis Skinner, Otis the suave, the redoubtable, in the comic guise of a barber. The star of "Kismet" and the later "Mister Antonio," heads a comedy by Horace Annesley Vachell called "Humpty-Dumpty"—a queer enough title for a play of a barber kicked upstairs into the world.

"The Hattos"
Presented.

The Hattos—Frederic and Fanny—are out with another smart metropolitan comedy called "The Walk-Offs." Oliver Morosco is the producer and the Belasco this week will be the locale of the production. "The Walk-Offs" runs true to the Hattos traditions—the girl with the "new" point of view and the gentleman from the provinces who can't quite get it all. The performance opens tonight.

Wilde Revival
at Poli's.

A more classic type of humor is scheduled for presentation at Poli's, beginning tomorrow night, in the form of Oscar Wilde's four-act comedy, "An Ideal Husband." John D. Williams is the producer. "An Ideal Husband" is one of Wilde's four great plays and the text to be used in the coming version is the text used by Sir George Alexander in his successful revival of the same performance in London several years ago. "An Ideal Husband" shares with the other comedies to be presented this week, a cast that is unusually capable. The present engagement is the first in showing of this production in America.

Six Stars for Frohman.

Charles Frohman, Inc., with six of the most prominent and best-liked stars on the American stage—Miss Maude Adams, Miss Ethel Barrymore, William Gillette, Otis Skinner, Miss Ann Murdock and Cyril Maude—under their management, have laid out a program for the coming season that will interest every theatergoer in the United States.

Miss Adams will again appear in "A Kiss for Cinderella," taking the beautiful Barrie "fancy" to those cities which she has not yet been able to visit.

Miss Barrymore will appear in Edward Sheldon's version of "The Lady of the Camellias," R. C. Carton's "The Girl of the Year" and "The Girl of the Year," in all of which she scored emphatic hits at the Empire.

Mr. Skinner, after an absence of two years on tour in both the United States and England, will be the first of the Charles Frohman stars to appear in New York this autumn. His new vehicle will be "Humpty-Dumpty," a comedy especially written for him by Horace Annesley Vachell, in which he will open his New York season September 16.

Mr. Maude will be the second of the Charles Frohman stars to appear in New York this autumn. He will open the season at the Empire Theater on Monday evening, September 30, presenting C. Haddon Chambers' comedy, "The Saving Grace."

Mr. Gillette is to appear in Sir James M. Barrie's comedy, "Dear Brutus," now in its second year in London and said to be one of the Scotch play's very best successes. Mr. Gillette will play the leading role in this piece at the personal solicitation of Sir James.

Bertha Kalich Coming.

Albert Bruning, Miss Frances Carson and Miss Beatrice Miller have been added to the cast that will present Mrs. Bertha Kalich in "The Ransom of Red Chief," the Charlotte E. Wells-Dorothy Donnelly play which Mr. George Moore now has in rehearsal. This attraction is scheduled for New York presentation following a week's engagement at the Belasco Theater, the 23rd of this month.

In Skinner's Support.

The cast of "Humpty-Dumpty," Horace Annesley Vachell's new comedy in which Otis Skinner comes to the National Theater this coming week, includes two actresses most happily recalled here for their delightful performances in Sir James Barrie's whimsical war play, "The Old Lady Shows Her Medals," last season.

They are Beryl Mercer, who portrayed Mrs. Dowey, the old English charwoman, who invented a soldier son with such astonishing results, and Clara Bracey, who played the envious neighbor, envious because Mrs. Dowey's imaginary son always began his letters to Mrs. Dowey, "Dearest Mother," while her Tommy confined himself to "Dear Mother." Both are seen to most pleasing advantage in Mr. Skinner's new comedy.

Farewell to U. S. A.

Stella Mayhew in frivolous style but with serious purpose comes to B. F. Keith's Theater this week farewelling before going "over there" to the trenches, hospitals and huts of our Hun-chasing heroes. She goes for 15-day and "found," that is food and lodging in the service of the United States under the direction of the Over There Theatrical Company operating through the Y. M. C. A. Miss Mayhew is described as "the cheeriest comedienne" and success has invariably accompanied her various stage ventures. Interest is added to the announcement by the fact that the actress sings, dances, and tells, and the jokes she bombs with, are the same she will give to "buck up" the boys who are carrying the American flag to undying glory on the battlefields of Flanders and Fieardy.

Newman at Front.

E. M. Newman, traveler and lecturer, has seen the war from "behind the scenes" and has just returned to tell of what is done. "War-time Europe" is the title of this season's series of Traveltalks. Under authorization of the U. S. government and with the approval of the British war department, the French republic and the Italian government, Newman, master traveler, has walked and talked with those who are our brothers in the fight.

The five Traveltalks will be given here in the following order: "Paris 1918," "War-time Europe," "War-time Italy," "London 1918," "War-time England."

Grand Opera En Route.

A week of grand opera is booked for Washington, opening at the Belasco Oct. 23. The company, which is the most pretentious which has ever gone on the road at anything over \$5 prices, will play at popular prices and numbers in its roster a long list of distinguished opera stars of international fame.



WHO'S WHO IN THE PICTURE.

1 and 4—Otis Skinner and Beryl Mercer, in "Humpty-Dumpty," at the National. 2—Wallace Reid, in "The Source," at Loew's Columbia. 3—Mabel Le Monnier at the Casino. 5—Cyril Maude, in "An Ideal Husband," at Poli's. 6—Ada Lum, with "Beauty Revue," at the Lyceum. 7—Carroll McCormack, in "The Walk-Offs," at the Belasco. 8—Scene from "To Hell with the Kaiser," at Moore's Strand. 9—Constance Collier, in "An Ideal Husband," at Poli's. 10—Ruth Clifford, in "The Girls of the U. S. A.," at the Gaiety. 11—Stella Mayhew at B. F. Keith's. 12—The cast of "The Walk-Offs."

To Be Seen This Week

National—Otis Skinner in "Humpty-Dumpty."

An announcement of far more than passing interest is that of the coming engagement, at the National Theater, for the week beginning tomorrow evening, of that most distinguished and best-liked of our American play-actors, Otis Skinner, in a new comedy by Horace Annesley Vachell entitled "Humpty-Dumpty."

In the newest vehicle, of which much agreeable report has been heard in advance, Mr. Skinner is said to have a role abounding in even greater opportunities than those of the unforgettable "Kismet" of the delightful "Mister Antonio" and one quite unlike any in which he has ever been seen.

Elizabeth Risdon, Beryl Mercer, Ruth Rose, Maud Milton, Morton Selton, Fleming Ward, Clara Bracey, Robert Harrison, Ernest Elton, Robert Entwistle, John Rogers and Walter Scott, form the distinguished and capable company entrusted with the roles surrounding the work of Mr. Skinner. The scenic equipment throughout the four acts is a tasteful and elaborate one.

Belasco—"The Walk-Offs."

At the Belasco Theater tonight, Oliver Morosco will present a new comedy entitled "The Walk-Offs." "The Walk-Offs" is the work of Frederic and Fanny Hatton, authors of "Years of Discretion." Like these comedies, it is a smart comedy of metropolitan life.

The central figures are a rich young Kentuckian with good, old-fashioned ideas as to the women and matrimony and a beautiful New York girl with a thoroughly worldly point of view.

Oliver Morosco has gathered together for "The Walk-Offs" a company of all-star caliber including Edward Lowe, Carroll McCormack, Fania Marinoff, Francis Slosson, Charles Stevenson, Fred Tilden, Robert Arnold, William Roselle, Emmet Shaffelford, Charles Ballard and others of equal prominence.

Poli's—"An Ideal Husband."

At Poli's Theater tomorrow evening John D. Williams will produce Oscar Wilde's comedy in four acts, "An Ideal Husband." The cast will contain the names of leading men for Maude Adams, Constance Collier, Cyril Maude, Julian L'Estrange, Beatrice Beckley and twenty others.

the qualities of wit and brilliance that mark all the work of this author and contains, in addition, dramatic possibilities that none of his other works possess.

B. F. Keith's—Vaudeville.

Stella Mayhew, "the cheeriest comedienne," says good-by to the buxom and bonnie laughmaker as ready to sail for "over there" as the head of the Stella Mayhew unit. The extra added stellar feature will be a 50-minute condensed version of "The Only Girl" with much of the Victor Herbert music and Henry Blossom book retained. There will be twelve Broadway players cast, three scenes, costumes galore, and life and color dazzling. Jack Wyatt and his Scotch lads and lassies will be another special. Jimmie Lucas, the "nut" comedian, will this time indulge in his "Wild Ravings of 1918." Edwin George will travesty in "A Comedy of Errors." Parsons and Irwin will offer "A Message from the Front." Others will be the Leo Zarell trio, the pipe organ recitals, and the new musical with actual war films.

Gaiety—"Girls of the U. S. A."

"The Girls of the U. S. A.," an attractive combination of mirth, melody and maidens, is the current attraction at the Gaiety Theater. Patterned after the average Broadway musical revue, it presents a succession of scenes joined together by a slender thread of plot, serving to introduce a glittering array of specialties, with the stunning chorus of selected beauties never long absent from the stage. The book used represents the joint efforts of Loney Haskell and Low Hilton, while Nat Osborne has provided the musical score.

Those noted entertainers, Lew Hilton and Ina Hayward, head the cast, which also includes Clara Evans, John Bohman, Charles Figg, Roy Peck, Mlle. Babette, Aurelia Clark, Penny Hilson and Grace Fleming. The two acts embrace six scenes, everyone of which is strikingly beautiful.

Lyceum—"Beauty Revue."

What is billed as the blue ribbon attraction of the American Burlesque Circuit comes to the Lyceum Theater this afternoon for a week's engagement in Rube Bernstein's "Beauty Revue," the show of unparalleled wonders.

Helen Gibson, George Bartlett and Henry Gurtin.

A chorus of twenty-four girls will appear on the elevated runway, projected over the audience, "Venus on Broadway," "The Domino Girl" and "Childhood" are some of the songs to be introduced by the Bernstein beauty chorus.

Loew's Columbia—"The Source."

Today and for the first half of the week Wallace Reid will be seen at Loew's Columbia in a new photoplay, "The Source," which tells the story of a Vermont lumber camp. A Swedish girl, Sven Nord, becomes interested in him, but a lumber boss who wants to make a hit with the girl beats him up cruelly.

She is at first astonished, then scornful when Ward proves too much of a coward to defend himself. But she does not realize that Ward's cowardice springs from physical weakness and too much liquor. Two months later he has redeemed himself and again comes to blows with the lumber boss, while the girl looks on. But this time he does up the boss in great shape.

Ann Little appears as the girl and the other players in the cast are Theodore Roberts, James Cruze, Raymond Hatton and other notable scene players. Thursday and for the last half of the week George Fawcett and Dorothy Gish will be seen as co-stars in "The Hun Within."

Moore's Garden—"Boston Blackie's Little Pal."

The first of three impressive photoplays to be presented at Moore's Garden Theater this week will be "Boston Blackie's Little Pal," in which Bert Lytell is pictured in the leading role, to be shown today, tomorrow and Tuesday. The story is an appealing one that reflects life as it is really lived, in which a precocious youngster takes a prominent part in shaping the destinies of a gentleman-crook who has never been caught by the police. The role of the crook is played by the star character impersonator by the star is entrusted to Rhea Mitchell, one of the best known and most capable of the screen's popular actresses.

In Wednesday and Thursday Max Murray will occupy the Garden screen as the pictured star of "The Bride's Awakening," a special super-production.

For the last two days of the week "Fires of Youth," an engrossing frank study of girlhood married to old age, in which the stellar role is taken by Ruth Clifford, will be the chief attraction. All of the bills will be completed by the customary short-reel comedy subjects and an orchestrated accompaniment, specially arranged for each major feature.

Moore's Strand—"To Hell With the Kaiser."

"To Hell With the Kaiser," the current week's booking at Moore's Strand Theater presents a clever combination of fact and fancy. This

Promised Next Week

National—"Gloriana."

"Gloriana," in which John Cort will present Miss Eleanor Cushing as his second offering of the season, will come to the National Theater for the week beginning September 16. "Gloriana" is a musical play by Catherine Chisholm Cushing and Rudolph Friml. Joseph Lertora will play the leading male role, and prominent in the cast will be Josephine Whittell, Dorothy South, Jessica Brown, Ralph Whitehead, James Dunn, Alexander Clark, Ursula Ellisworth, Helen Marqua, Marguerite St. Clair and Polly Bowman, and Lloyd Wells. The production was staged by Clifford Brooke, who is also responsible for the staging of "Fiddlers Three," Mr. Cope's first attraction of the season, and to Bert French goes the credit for the dances.

Poli's—Jane Cowl in "Information, Please."

Jane Cowl in "Information, Please" is announced for Poli's Theater the week of September 16. "Information, Please" is the third play of a series of three written by Miss Cowl in collaboration with Jane Murnin. The other two, "Lilac Time" and "Daybreak," scored unqualified successes. Miss Cowl herself appeared for two successive seasons in the former, playing for one year continuously in New York and later repeating her success in Chicago and London. In the latter, she played the role of a girl who has been recruited from the fields of musical comedy and vaudeville.

Belasco—"The Copperhead."

Washington will be the first city outside of New York to see Augustus Thomas' latest play, "The Copperhead." It will come to the Belasco Theater on Monday, September 16. "The Copperhead" is a new play by the author of "The Sign of the Cross," the Illinois farmer-patriot, which won him no sensational success last winter. Mr. Barrymore's playing was easily the most distinctive feature of the past season in New York. His performance in "The Copperhead" at once put him in the foremost ranks of English-speaking actors.

B. F. Keith's—Vaudeville.

Next week at B. F. Keith's theater Blanche Ring will offer "Topics and Tunes of the Times." Joe Jackson, the original hobo patoisist, will appear. Others will be Herbert Clifford in his travesty on the fair sex, Felix Rush and company in "Crosby's Corner," Clarence Oliver and George O'Leary in "The Girl Who Came Back," the Aerial troupe of oriental

mystifiers, the Wilton girls, the Olga and Mishka trio of sensational dancers, the pipe organ recitals and the new musical and actual war films. Liberty Loan drive the week following.

Gaiety—"The Smugglers."

An entirely new version of Max Spiegel's "Merry Rounders" with Ab Reynolds and Florence Mills in the featured roles, is the Gaiety's offering for next week. These stars have been provided with a vehicle of unusual merit, which abounds in witty lines and luring lyrics. It is entitled "The Smugglers" and calls for a lavish scenic investment that is matched only by the staging of "Fiddlers Three," Mr. Cope's first attraction of the season, and to Bert French goes the credit for the dances.

Cosmos—"Little Hip" and "Napoleon."

Next week, "Little Hip" and "Napoleon," a midge elephant comedy and his monkey friend, will be the unique feature of the Cosmos Theater bill, with "The Golden Bird," a marvelous canary, and Hattie Kitchener, a golden haired violinist, in over the daintiest offerings in vaudeville, as the co-stellar attraction. The special bill of seven acts and three exceptional film features will include also Glemm and Jenkin's the funniest comedy comedians in popular vaudeville, Marva Rehn, singing comedienne and a great Cosmos favorite, assisted by Bertie Fitch at the piano. Albert Card and Rae Norr, formerly of the Bostonians and Aborn Opera Company, in "Lights and Shades of Musical Mirth"; the Bartelle acrobatic comedians in an amusing "bum" act; Edward Langford, from "Katinka," in a new and melodious monologue; Nazimova in "Toys of Fate," a seven reel screen classic; the Sunshine comedy, "The Driver's Last Kiss" and Hearst-Pathe News.

Loew's Columbia—"Out of a Clear Sky."

Next Sunday, and for the first half of the week, Margaret Clark will be seen at Loew's Columbia in her new photoplay, "Out of a Clear Sky." Thursday, and for the last half of the week, Ethel Clayton will be seen in "The Girl Who Came Back."

Gossip From Filmland

The success of George Kleine's new war picture, "Behind the Lines in Italy," has been so great Mr. Kleine has decided to put some spectacular panics out playing the larger legitimate theaters for runs in the important cities of the country. He is having a special series of incidental music made that will fit the varied episodes.

"Behind the Lines in Italy" was made by the Cines Company, of Rome, at the command of the Italian government and includes a number of scenes of actual battle that were made by the Cinematograph Corps of the Royal Italian army and intended originally for government record only.

Bert Lytell, one of the most versatile young actors devoting his talents to silent drama, who will be remembered as the male star of "Empty Pockets" and who will be seen at Moore's Garden Theater the first three days of this week in the principal role of "Boston Blackie's Little Pal" is one of those rare players who believe, like David Belasco, that the stage or screen representation of a commodity or an action should be as life-like as possible. In the present subject he is cast as a crook of the scholar-and-the-gentleman sort, after the general style of Kaffie, who disports himself by cracking safes and otherwise committing "larcenies." It seems that the modern yeggman, instead of sandpapering his fingertips, as Jimmy Val-tine did, employs an exquisitely delicate device known as an audion to detect, by sound, the fall of the tumblers in the complicated locks. Mr. Lytell, learning this, promptly equipped himself with an audion and in an important scene in the picture makes its use interestingly and enlighteningly clear.

In her own special productions, now being released and now being generally recognized as among the most meritorious film super-productions before the public, Miss Murray finds it possible to depict before the camera phases of life through which she herself has actually passed. In "Her Life in Bonds" recently shown here, Miss Murray was cast as a dancing girl. Prior to her advent in films, she was a dancing girl in Ziegfeld's "Follies." In "The Bride's Awakening" her latest release, the star is filmed as a young bride whose marital affairs are sadly tangled by a profligate husband, interested solely in her fortune. It is said upon reliable authority that Miss Murray once escaped precisely the predicament in which her photoplay character finds herself solely by virtue of the marriage mans having been read in the church and a total stranger, consequent anxiety to forewarn her that her prospective bridegroom had a wife living. Miss Murray, it should be added, is at the present time the proud wife of an officer in the U. S. Army.

An opportunity to impersonate the Kaiser upon the screen is now always as much striven for by photoplay actors as the chance to play Hamlet is sought by comedians upon the legitimate stage. Those talented gentlemen who have been filmed as the unrepentable Hohenzollern have undertaken each, in turn, to imbue the "all-highest" with some new attribute that would make him more obnoxious than ever to the American public.

Possibly the most thoroughly compelling characterization of the war lord was that offered by Rupert Julian in "The Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin." Mr. Julian's make-up was so astonishingly like all of the pictures of Wilhelm II with which this country is familiar that one watching the film spectacle was torn between a desire to hiss the figure and applaud the actor. "Compulsions" is a perfect visualization of the best that the world has to offer in the way of a keen appreciation of the manner in which best to manifest the supreme egotism and cowardice of a king whose warfare to exist is no physical risk of self or family.

A very small, kinky-haired, water-melon-smiling, chocolate colored boy, an important fun ingredient in "The Sheriff," which will be released by Paramount. The idea is laughable in itself, but the reality is so convincing that the comedian himself, to the other actors, is a studio hands, and is destined later to even more amuse the screen fans.

"The Sheriff" presents the jovial Fatty Arbuckle as a rascally, don-dor-die Western officer of the law. In theme it is a highly laughable burlesque of the usual blood-curdling, wild and woolly Western melodrama as depicted in the "American Tobacco Company's" Fatty in this travesty is the largest cast he has ever used and includes two of the prettiest girls in pictures, to each a new beauty recruit from the Ziegfeld Follies.

Through the presentation of their special comedy release, "My Lady Noddy," the Mutual Film Corporation continues to add to the list of "Our Boys in France Tobacco Pans." The one-hoop film, starring Ethel Rhodes, deals with the crying necessity of our American tobacco boys in France for American tobacco. The various exponents of the Mutual Film Corporation have co-operated with the fund by urging all exhibitors to exhibit "My Lady Noddy" on the day they present "My Lady Noddy" at their theaters. They have responded enthusiastically to the plan, with the result that "Our Boys in France Tobacco Pans" has been enriched to the extent of many hundreds of dollars contributed by film patrons.

The latest patriotic exhibitor to add to the "My Lady Noddy" fund is A. Worthington, manager of the Opera House Picture Show, Jacksonville, Tex. In a town containing 100 population Mr. Worthington obtained \$2 in one day from his patrons and has sent a check for that amount to the local headquarters.

Belasco Opens Season.

David Belasco opened the regular Belasco Theater season in New York Tuesday evening with his latest production, "Daddies," comedy in four acts by John L. Hobbe, a new American playwright. In keeping with his usual policy Mr. Belasco has avoided in his announcement even a hint as to the plot and story of the play.

To interpret the various roles "Daddies" Mr. Belasco has assembled a cast which includes Bruce B. Pelt, John W. Cope, Edward Davis, George Giddens, George Abbott, S. K. Walker, Jeanne Eagels, Winifred Fraser, Edith King, Paulette Goddard, Lorna Volant and Aid Andrus.

The story is that of a group of bachelors who decide to adopt some phans. Of course, a love affair follows.

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